

and life-long buddy, Thornton J. Meacham, Jr., Esq., as we celebrate one of Harlem's greatest legal advocates at the great Cathedral of Riverside Church in Harlem today. As I speak with profound honor and respect for my friend Thornton, I ascend to celebrate a life well-lived and to also remember the many legal professional accomplishments of this remarkable man. Thornton Meacham etched his name in history as a passionate and dedicated legal advocate for all African-American lawyers and legal professionals throughout this city and Nation.

Thornton's death on October 4, 2009, brought immense sorrow and loss to me, his family, his friends, and to the countless lives he touched over the years in our beloved community. I am blessed to say that I was able to have spent some time with Thornton during his final days. As we said our good-byes, he left in my heart a reminder of all the many exciting moments of his life and all of the good times we shared together. He was undisputedly one of Harlem's greatest lawyers, largely responsible for blacks being admitted to the New York Bar Association. This strong-willed and exciting man represented Harlem in all of its glory, and we are all consumed by his passing.

Thornton J. Meacham, Jr. was born on March 10, 1917 in Terrell, Arkansas as the first son to Dr. Thornton J. Meacham and Lila Celesta. His younger brother, Dr. Henry Wade Meacham, who also had an outstanding professional career passed away in 2004. After the family moved to Jackson, Tennessee, Thornton attended public school and graduated from Lane College. Upon his graduation from college, Thornton was accepted to attend law school at Harvard University, Columbia University and New York University, but chose to attend Fordham University, thus becoming the second African American to attend Fordham University and the first to graduate from its Law School in 1942.

Just a few years ago, we all celebrated Thornton's 66th Anniversary of his graduation from Fordham Law School. He loved Fordham Law and dedicated his entire life to helping young aspiring jurists succeed.

Admitted to the Bar in 1943, Thornton set the mark that raised the bar for all of us. He was the first Black attorney to join the legal staff of the Office of Price Stabilization on Broadway in New York; first to argue a case before the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; first African American to be featured on the cover of *The New York Law Journal*; first to try both criminal and civil cases in the Bronx and Queens County Courts; and the first to open a law practice in Harlem.

Thornton always spoke of his experiences in the 1950s when the New York City Bar Association refused him membership due to his race. During segregation, he tried and won cases in Florida, North Carolina, Virginia and New Jersey. He represented Hulan Jack, Congressman Adam C. Powell, Dorothy Dandridge, Louis Armstrong, Bessie Buchanan, Mile Davis, the NAACP and Carver National Bank—a legacy of history that makes us all proud to be Americans.

Thornton Meacham was Counsel to the law offices of Assemblyman William T. Andrews, Judge Harold Stevens and Attorney John Briggs. He later became a Law Partner to Judge Thomas Dickens. Thornton, along with

some of Harlem's elite class of attorneys, co-founded the Harlem Lawyers Association, which later merged into the Metropolitan Black Bar Association.

Thornton Meacham was a very active member of the National Bar Association (NBA) and was acknowledged as a legal dignitary by the organization on several occasions. He was a recipient of the NBA Wiley A. Branton Issues Award and in 1994, he was inducted into the prestigious National Black Association Hall of Fame, which recognizes lawyers who have practiced for over 40 years and have made significant contributions to the cause of justice. Thornton was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the Williams Institutional Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Harlem.

Meacham's extraordinary accomplishments as a revered legal professional exemplified the pioneering leadership of many through his commitment and exemplary service to the legal community. He will long be remembered for his extraordinary commitment, humor, liveliness, energy, wisdom, discipline, principle and clear purpose which won the admiration of all who were privileged to come to know and work with him during his distinguished career.

Madam Speaker, I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to observe and experience his example as a personal inspiration. Though Thornton is no longer with us, we will continue to keep his memory alive in our hearts and minds, and continue to honor his legacy with our advocacy for the issues he cared about the most.

HONORING MILDRED ROSS BEAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Mildred Bean of Walnut Creek, California. A proud wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. "Millie" was exemplary in her unconditional familial devotion, diligent work ethic, dedicated national service, and her love of arts and travel. With her passing on May 27, 2009, we look to Millie's family to remind us of her life's journey and the joyful legacy she inspired.

Mildred Ross was born on January 30, 1934 in Sacramento, California. After graduating high school, Millie began local secretarial work for the government. As her family fondly tells it, Millie's long love story with Air Force officer Richard "Dick" Bean began when he spotted her in a red party dress. The two were soon married and embarked on a military career that would span the next two decades.

Over the following ten years, Millie and Dick raised their three young children on Long Island, New York's Suffolk County Air Force Base. After a brief assignment in North Carolina, the family moved to Clark Air Force Base located in the Philippines.

It was there that Millie and her family had the great joy of spending two years stationed together with her sister Laura Brown, Laura's husband Joe, and their four children. Millie also enjoyed her time abroad by cultivating a love of travel. She and Dick were able to visit

Singapore, Bangkok, Saudi Arabia, India, Spain, and Thailand during their time in Southeast Asia.

The family eventually returned to California for their last assignment on Travis Air Force Base. After Dick retired as an Air Force Lieutenant Colonel in 1973, the couple built their dream home in Walnut Creek. When the Bean's two eldest children had left for college and their youngest was a high school sophomore, Millie returned to work and decided to pursue a college degree herself.

While working full time, Millie graduated Cum Laude from the University of San Francisco with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Millie then began a respected career with the Alameda Naval Air Station where she earned numerous awards, including the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, the highest honor given by the Navy to a civilian. At the time of her retirement in 1996, Millie had contributed 27 years of service to the Navy and was a GM-13 Performance Review Division Head.

In the midst of many accomplishments, Millie was quick to remind others that she was most proud of her children, Tony Bean, Kimberly Perry, and Laurie Adams. Millie's highest priority was to nurture and enjoy her extended family, which grew as her children married their spouses and gave Millie and Dick five beautiful grandchildren.

I have known Millie for many years. Her generosity, her friendship and her beautiful smile will forever be etched in my heart. She was a consistent supporter and encouraged me every step of the way. I cherished her friendship and will miss her tremendously.

After retirement, Millie and Dick enjoyed season tickets to the symphony and ballet, travel adventures in Europe and Asia, weekend getaways in Cannel, and a final vacation to Hawaii that Dick will forever treasure. Millie's joy for life was not only contagious, but an invaluable lesson to her loved ones in times of uncertainty and doubt.

Always social and active, Millie kept a monthly lunch date with friends and enjoyed taking her grandchildren to the Nutcracker Ballet. Undoubtedly, the countless small and subtle acts of love that Millie demonstrated in her lifetime will continue to be powerful gifts to the people she cherished most.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a great human being, our beloved Millie Bean. We extend our deepest condolences to Millie's husband and family. Thank you for sharing her great spirit with us. May her soul rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, on October 14, 2009, I was unable to cast votes, due to personal reasons. I was not present for roll-call votes 775 through 779. Had I been present, I would have casted a "yea" vote for final passage of H. Res. 768, Expressing support for the designation of the month of October as "National Work and Family Month"; H.R. 1327, Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009; H. Res. 816, Mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that